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Minutes/Summary for the Boulevard Planning Group

DEC 01 2008

Meeting held on November 6, 2008

San Diego County  
DEPT. OF PLANNING & LAND USE

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM. Members present: Marilyn Polen, Jeffrey McKernan, Donna Tisdale, Bill Parsons, Darlene Koczka and Chris Noland. Members absent: Pat Stuart. *The minutes for the October 2 meeting were approved: M/S Polen/Noland: 6-0-0. The minutes for the community plan Special Meetings held on October 16, 23 and 30, were approved: M/S: McKernan/Polen: 6-0-0.*

**A. SDG&E PROPOSAL TO SHUT OFF POWER IN RURAL HIGH-RISK FIRE AREAS DURING EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS:** SDG&E representatives, Don Parent and JC Thomas, gave an overview of SDG&E's reasons for their emergency fire preparedness power shut-off proposal which is now suspended until next year. They are doing more surveillance, brush management, and a 5-year wood to steel pole swap program. Two former fire fighters have been hired to help implement the changes. Switches that are tripped will no longer be automatically re-energized. Reclosure devices will be operated manually. It will take longer for power to be turned back on due to the need for daylight to survey the lines. SDG&E's Mtn Empire Substation will be fully staffed during red flag/high wind events. They will be talking to us more over the next 6-12 months on ways to address potential issues. They announced a SDG&E open house in Alpine and one at Mtn Empire High on Nov 19<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 PM. It was stated that those with medical issues will be evacuated by SDG&E via ambulance service during intentional power shut-offs. This proposal was challenged as questionable due to the lack of ambulances stationed in the backcountry, the difficulty in finding some rural residences, and the fact that I-8 may be closed to traffic during high wind/fire events. SDG&E was challenged on the overall proposal and the negative impacts. One property owner noted that food and agriculture codes regarding the supply of water for livestock would make SDG&E's proposed power cut off, which shuts down water well pumps, a criminal act. Group member Noland stated that SDG&E was just trying to limit their liability.

**B. REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR TABLE MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS STUDY AREA AS FEDERAL WILDERNESS OR TRANSFER TO ANZA BORREGO STATE PARK:** Geoff Smith of the Wilderness Coalition made a power point presentation on his request for Wilderness designation for the Table Mountain study area, stating it was part of a 20-year campaign for the California Desert Protection Act. Wilderness designation requires that the land already be public land, wild, 5,000 acres or more, no roads, no structures or installations. There were a few questions regarding access and the desire not to shut off existing access. Due to the pressures on public lands for renewable energy projects and infrastructure, the request received full support with no opposition. M/S: Parsons/Noland, to endorse the request, passed 6-0-0. The Chair promised to revise the draft letter and get it off to Smith prior to the two-week deadline.

**C. PARKLAND DEDICATION ORDINANCE (PLDO):** Nick Martinez from Dept. Of Parks and Recreation discussed the pros and cons of the Group's PLDO request for the purchase of property for a proposed multi-use community center. Martinez said he will be checking out the buildability of the property. The cost of the property is more than the current available PLDO funds. Campo already has their community center, new park and equipment in the works which will use the same PLDO funds. Boulevard needs to set up a non profit organization, or local service district, to handle maintenance and upkeep. Resident Suzanne Howard offered her services as a grant writer to help achieve the goal. Theresa Brownyard is the grant writer for Park & Rec. Martinez can act as our coordinator. He will take some pictures of the property, if it looks good then he can develop a willing

seller letter. Acquisition, operation and maintenance issues will be dealt with later. It was noted that the McCain Valley Conservation Camp had previously offered the services of their crews to help maintain a local park. When asked, Martinez agreed that Mtn Empire Health may be a viable umbrella group to help Boulevard get started on this project since they are well established and a multi-use community center will benefit local families. No action was taken.

**D. OUTDOOR WORLD CELL TOWER REPLACEMENT PLAN P08-014:** The revised application, replacing our request for a faux boulder camouflage with a faux water tank, was reviewed and discussed. It was agreed that due to the elevation of the site, and the view of the site from Hwy 94 and surrounding properties, that a faux boulder would be a better match for the site instead of the proposed water tank. If a water tank were to be used, it was agreed that the vintage style water tank, like that installed at Kitchen Creek Road and Old 80 was much preferred to the proposed tank style. ***M/S: McKernan/Parsons: Request a faux boulder as preferred camouflage with a vintage tank like that at Kitchen Creek as second choice: 6-0-0.***

**E. DRAFT REVISIONS TO THE COUNTY'S PUBLIC ROAD STANDARDS:** The comments drafted by the Chair were reviewed line by line with no other additions or corrections. ***M/S: Polen/McKernan: Accept the comments and submit to County:6-0-0.***

**F. COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE/GOALS AND POLICIES :** The Chair reported on the Special Boulevard Planning Group meetings, held October 16th, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30th, to draft and approve the Goals and Policies section. The Chair also reported that the History section had been held back in order to do more research on the incredibly rich and unique history of the area. It was agreed that a more in depth history section was needed and desirable.

## **6 .OLD BUSINESS - UPDATES - POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS:**

**A. SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATORS (SVP):** It was reported that, despite the good community turnout and a reported 500 opposition letters and 1,000 signatures, at the Oct 30<sup>th</sup> court hearing, the judge approved the placement of Sexually Violent Predator, John David Norman, at 1643 Jewel Valley Road in Boulevard. Supervisor Jacob's help on this issue was recognized as was the need to express appreciation for that help.

**B. BLM HAS RELEASED THE RECORD OF DECISION (ROD) IMPACTING MCCAIN VALLEY:** The controversial ROD was discussed along with the significant negative and cumulative impacts it represents to Boulevard, McCain Valley, and surrounding areas, including the newly announced Plan Amendment for a utility corridor for Sunrise Powerlink. Options for appealing the decision were discussed. ***M/S: Parsons/Polen: Submit letters protesting the proposed Plan Amendment and the proposed Sunrise Powerlink decisions and the FEIR/EIS: 6-0-0***

**C. SUNRISE POWERLINK FINAL EIR/EIS COMMENT DEADLINE NOV 15/ PROPOSED DECISION RELEASED:** The Chair reported that the final environmental CEQA/NEPA document has been released for public comment. Aspen Environmental, the CEQA review staff for CPUC, selected local power generation as the preferred project. The BLM (NEPA) selected the southern route as their preferred project and proposed amending their just revised resource management plan to allow a new utility corridor. The assigned Administrative Law Judge's proposed decision, released October 30<sup>th</sup>, rejected the Sunrise Powerlink project as too expensive and damaging to the environment, but the assigned PUC commissioner supported a southern route through Boulevard with conditions. The full commission is expected to make a decision by the end of the year, with December 4<sup>th</sup> being the earliest possible date for a vote. ***See 6B above for action on this item.***

**D. 200 MW INDUSTRIAL WIND ENERGY PROPOSED IN MCCAIN VALLEY:** An update was given. PPM Energy/Iberdrola Renewables is revising their previous Plan of Development to enlarge their project to incorporate the increased acreage that BLM downgraded for them. They are scheduled to present their plans at Planning Group's December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. No action taken.

**E. SEMPRA'S BAJA WIND APPLICATION FOR PRESIDENTIAL PERMIT FOR CROSS-BORDER 500KV LINE AT JACUMBA (DOE docket no. PP-334):** A decision is pending from the Dept. Of Energy on whether or not to require a full EIS. DOE has reported no movement has been made on this project. DOE may be waiting for a final decision on the Sunrise Powerlink which is a connected transmission project. No action taken.

**F. SDG&E'S PROPOSED ECO SUBSTATION AND 14 MILES OF NEW TRANSMISSION LINE REQUIRED FOR WIND GENERATION PROJECTS:** The Boulevard Substation at Tule Jim and Historic Rt 80 is also proposed to be expanded from 1/4 acre to 3/4 acre onto private property. According to the SDG&E project manager, they had not yet filed applications with the PUC. No action taken.

**G. WEST-WIDE ENERGY CORRIDOR PROGRAMMATIC EIS:** The Chair reported on the Final maps being released with a December comment deadline. The same route is proposed through the area using the existing BLM utility corridor through the Jacumba area. Existing 69 kV routes are used through other properties and the Cleveland National Forest. ***This issue will be placed on the December agenda for action.***

**H. CAMPO LANDFILL:** Release of the Supplemental EIS (SEIS), for public comment, for this 600-acre landfill proposed for Campo tribal lands has been further delayed until after the first of the year. In a new development, several site-specific waiver applications, to allow deviation from standard federal landfill regulations, will be included in the SEIS rather than being reviewed separately

**I. LANSING COMPANIES:** No new information is available on Lansing's plans.

**J. INVENERGY WIND:** No new information is available on Invenergy's plans. They appear to be active locally. Public records show that at least two Boulevard property owners have signed easement agreements.

**K. PROPOSED CHANGES FOR METEOROLOGICAL TOWERS FOR WIND ENERGY TESTING:** This issue was discussed. There are major concerns that these met towers represent the foot in the door for industrial wind proponents to change the rules and regulations to allow industrial scale turbines (400-600' tall) on private property, where 80' restrictions currently exist. Chris Noland noted that the 120 days the Board of Supervisors had asked for in returning this item with potential options on permitting met towers (removing the current MUP requirement) was almost up and requested that the item be placed on the December agenda for proactive action.

There was no public comment. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Minutes submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Donna Tisdale, Chair 11-26-08